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An Introduction to Strategy

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BOOKS

Beaufre, d'Armée André. *An Introduction to Strategy*. New York: Praeger, 1965. 138 p.

The title *An Introduction to Strategy* implies the book to be a basic approach to a complicated subject—couched in simple terms and explanations. This is definitely not the case. The author has prepared a highly detailed, comprehensive, and carefully formulated treatise on strategy and his work is literally an all-inclusive textbook on this particular branch of knowledge.

General Beaufre devotes the initial chapter of his endeavor to a general survey of the word "strategy"—initially analyzing the meaning, aims, and patterns of strategy and then dividing the word and its meaning into subdivisions of action. He concludes his first chapter by reviewing basic principles of strategy and their application. Chapter Two concerns itself with traditional "military strategy" and its relationship to military operations. The author next turns to strategy in the nuclear age and Chapter Three is a highly interesting and thought-provoking discussion of the importance and originality of the nuclear weapon, forms of nuclear strategy, and the continuing evolution of strategy in the nuclear age. His points are liberally and interestingly illustrated through firsthand intimate knowledge of political and military events over the past two decades.

Chapter Four devotes itself to the concept of "indirect" strategy and the counters available to such strategy. The author also points out the imperative need for the Free World to understand and exploit the indirect concept if it hopes to survive.

General Beaufre concludes his excellent text with a series of general thoughts on strategy—stressing that if Free World strategy is to become master of such new phenomena as the cold war, total war, and nuclear war that it must undergo considerable change; that it must be widened in scope and fundamentally revised.

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